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AN ACCOUNT OF THE

Trial and Execution

OF

John Boulton,

A LIEUTENANT ON HALF PAY

For a Shocking and Cruel

MURDER

Committed at Wakefield, on the body of Betty Rainbow, his Servant an Apprentice Girl, from the Parish, who, after seducing her, and in the fifth month of her pregnancy, hanged her up the rope breaking; he hanged a second time, and twisted it with his fife, buried her in the Cellar in Earth five foot deep, his apprehension at the City of York, Examination and Commitment to the Castle, with the remarkable Speech at the Place of Execution.

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THE

Cruel Lieutenant.

IN contemplating, on the laws of God, we find that murder was by the Divine Command, prohibited The Six Commandment says. Thou shalt do no murder ; but from the creation to the present time, we find that human beings are now more cruel than the beast of the field, they do not destroy one another such sinful wages to them are unknown, Man by the Pride of the Eye The lust of the flesh & wicked ways are guilty of the greater evils. The case of the murder before us is singular, it is as follows.

John Bolton had been a Lieutenant on board some of his Majesty's ships during the last war, under some of our noble Commanders ; at the conclusion of that war, the ships crews being paid off, he retired into Yorkshire ; being allowed half pay. settled at Newton, a village only one mile from Wakefield, a market town in Yorkshire ; with some of his family at the beginning of the war he did not join the fleets any more ; continuing on his half pay list.

Betty Rainbow, was a native of the town, was born of creditable parents, who carried on an extensive trade, but on account of many losses was reduced the father on the account thereof died of a broken heart, and the mother being greatly distrest, was obliged

to seek for relief from the parish ; thus she and her daughter were admitted into the poor house, which place in about six months after, she died. The daughter was then left alone. As is customary in market towns in the county part of England. An advertisement was inserted in the County paper " a number of Boys and Girls to be put out apprentice. " The prisoner applied for one, as a servant of all work. The gentlemen of the parish made the necessary enquiry, and found his general character to be good, therefore they could not hesitate to let the Girl go, thus we see when parents leave their children to the world by death, how liable they are to be trapanned and ruined.

The particulars of the murder is as follows. according to the evidence before the justice, The Overseers of the parish having permitted Betty Rainbow to leave the parish house to go to his service, as it appears he used to bring her little presents from the towns he visited previous to her being bound therefore, child-like, she was allured and her parents being dead, she was very fond of finding a new friend.

After she was bound apprentice, his kindnesses towards her continued after one year she being about 16 years of age he used to toy and play with her, she being innocent of any ill, used to let him take liberties. In this part we would recommend to parents that when they place their children under any person's care, that if the child should tell their father and mother how such a person played with them in any manner, whatever depend upon it there is evil intended, their virtue and reputation is in danger, how many instances of this have we had lately to the disgrace of our schools, and others entrusted with the care of both sexes of

youth ; we hope this is not the case of all, we only put parents on their guard.

One liberty taken, naturally gives the same in return, and Country girls as well as London, are not wanting in this particular. Our Lieutenant had often invited her to his bed. She girl like thought it a fine thing to be so noticed by her master, was not wantonly in his embraces ; Dalliance, playing and sport was her delight. The family could not help noticing his partiality towards the girl ; but never suspected her virtue to be in danger.

Friday being the market day, at Wakefield, which was one mile from the village, he fixed as that day, for the completion of his wickedness, when the family were gone to provide for their weeks board, as in some villages, if they miss the market, they must sometimes travel miles to get provisions, those conveniences are not to be had in Country towns as in the cities of England. The family returning from market, knew nothing of what had transpired in their absence, no doubt but money was given to the girl for secrecy. After a length of time she began to be ill, without knowing the cause, no one in the house suspecting any incontinency of the Lieutenant, the girl and he being sworn to secrecy.

Too fond love, commonly turns to inveterate hatred ; after he had his ends, his presents ceased his temper was morose, sullen, and surly, and so continued all the time after ; until he meditated and fixed on the wicked plan to take her life. One day when the family was from home, he sent her into the cellar on some frivolous occasion ; he was soon after her with a rope, suddenly siezing her, he fixed the rope round her neck ; she struggling her hands being at liberty, she got it loose, she then fell on her knees to expostulate with him, she spoke as follows.

"Dear Sir, what have I done to offend you? That you wish to act so vile a part, thus to choak me. my eyes are ready to start out of my head, what have I done to offend? My innocence you, first beguil'd, it was when you took me into your service, an innocent poor helpless Orphan' you know good Sir, you did seek my ruin The beast of the field are always tender to its mate, it was your own fault, not mine, therefore do not be so cruel to kill me. "One would have thought such words would pierce a heart of stone, but he cruel like. was so deaf to her cries; and being in a village remote from any inhabitants no one could hear her moan.

Being deaf to her entreaties he determinedthat day to be her butcher, he hasted to the diabolical deed, he again siezed his prize, fixed the rope, a second time about her neck, he tied her hands fast behind, hanged her up, and with his fife he twisted the rope tight about her neck, he buried her in the Cellar five foot deep; certainly the devil must await in all his business.

About one week after the 21st of August, great enquiry was made about this girl, no intelligence could be obtained, neighbours whispered. The parish was alarmed. The Lieutenant was missing Something not right was the general opinion--- Applied for a search warrant to the Justice---Warrant granted.---could discover nothing by searching the house, nor garden, not satisfied, thought of a plan of searching the house with blood hounds Had the desired effect the dogs were uneasy in the house. could not get them out, the Cellar door opened, they run down, would not leave the house scratched up the earth, when to their astonishment they opened, and found the victim buried therein The family being surprized! They immediately dispatched a Hue and Cry thro' the East & West Riding, and every part of the County, when he

was taken in the city of York, examined and committed on the cleareſt evidence to the Caſtle for Trial at the enſuing Aſſizes.

The Coroner's Jury ſat on the body and brought in a Verdict Guilty againſt her maſter, it was likewiſe proved by the Surgeon that ſhe was five months pregnant.

AT THE PLACE OF EXECUTION

The Morning of Execution, he behaved with a becoming decency; and after receiving the bleſſed Sacrament, he was led to the place of Execution in a black ſuit of mourning attended by the Sheriff's Officers and a great crowd of ſpectators as ſoon as he was mounted, he ſpoke in the following manner.

Good People,

I SEE here are numbers of you aſſembled to ſee me depart this ſinful life in ſhame, you expect to hear ſom-thing of the fact for which I ſuffer. I own I committed the murder, and acknowledge the juſtneſs of my ſentence, I truſt you will take warning by my untimely fate, as the Lord abhors the blood thirſty; and has expreſsly forbid the ſhewing any mercy or compaſſion to a murderer. here he finiſhed, calling upon the Lord to receive his poor immortal ſoul, he was launched into eternity.

The Text of an Excellent Sermon very ſuitable to the foregoing, From James, 1, 13, 14, 15

"Let no man ſay, when he is tempted, I am tempted of God, for God cannot be tempted of evil, neither tempteth he any man. But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own luſt and enticed. Then when luſt is conceived it bringeth forth ſin, and ſin when it is finiſhed, bringeth forth death.

COME parents all and pretty maidens,
Liften awhile and you ſhall hear,
Of an inhuman wicked murder,
Lately acted Wakefield in Yorkſhire,
By one John Bolton, as 'tis sent us,
Is a Lieutenant on half pay,
On Betty Rainbow, his apprentice,
Who was with child by him they ſay,

A rope about her neck he fix'd,
To murder her and hide his ſhame,
But with her hands ſhe faſt did hold it,
And ſtruggling ſhe got looſe again;
Then on her bended knees ſhe cry'd,
Dear Sir, don't act ſo a vile a part;
As with a rope to go and choak me,
See how my precious eyes do ſtart;

What have I done for to offend you?
My innocence you firſt beguil'd,
You know good Sir, you did undo me,
When I was a harmleſs child;
Wild beaſt I've read are always tender,
Unto their mates when they're with young
Therefore, dear ſir, do not be cruel,
To kill me for the fault you've done.

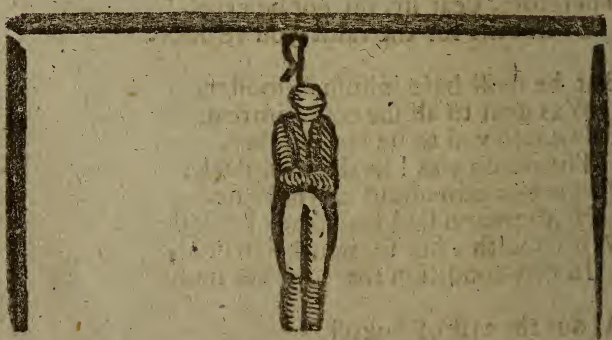
But he moſt baſe inhuman moſter,
Was deaf to all ſhe could intreat,
Being reſolved to be her butcher,
The which alas! he did compleat;
The rope again about her neck ſir.
He drew and tied her hands behind,
Which with a fife ſo tight he twiſted,
In this condition they did her find.

About the 21ſt of Auguſt,
The girl was miſſing as we hear,

Which made the neighbours thus to whisper,
There's ſomething very bad we fear,
So they applied unto a juſtice.
And he good man immediately.
Granted a ſearch warrant then to find him,
And ſtraight dispatch'd a hue and cry.

Now in the cellar they did find her,
Buried in earth five foot deep.
Vile wretch he thought to hide the murder,
But Providence did him defeat;
At York City he was taken,
With loaded piſtols and a knife,
So in York Caſtle we did leave him,
To think upon his murdering life.

The Jury ſat and brought in Guilty,
Her maſter who had been ſo wild,
And when the Surgeons did her open,
Found ſhe was five months gone with child.
So maſters let this be a warning,
To prentice girls be not ſevere,
But rather ſet a good example,
And uſe them as your children dear.



J. Pitts, Printer.